

## IMPORTANCE OF SYSTEM FEDERATION

When every trades unionist understands that he is in fact his brother's keeper, labor will come into its own.

The principle at issue in the Illinois Central strike means to every working man what it means to one of the striking shopmen. Capital is organizing and federating much more rapidly than labor, and organization must be met by organization, federation by federation.

The I. C. is not acting alone in this matter. Every railroad in the country is interested. If the I. C. wins this fight, some other road will make the same fight.

The tactics will be to defeat labor in detail. All the strength of the combined railroads will be massed against the employes on one road. If the federated railroad bosses win on one road, they'll mass their strength on another.

The shopmen on other roads than the I. C. are as vitally interested in the outcome of the present strike as the I. C. shopmen themselves. Their turn may come at any moment. And they should be bending their joint efforts to help their brothers on the I. C.

It goes even farther than that. It goes into every branch of industry where labor is organized. Employes unions will have to federate as fast as the employers unions, or organizations, federate.

And there is no chance for industrial peace until both employers and employes are thoroughly organized and federated. When that time comes strikes will be a thing of the past. Until it does come, the strike is about the only weapon labor has with which to defend itself against oppression.

## IN IT IN EARNEST

"Business interests" of Los Angeles, had hardly got to celebrating victory over Socialism, with the aid of the women's votes, than it got two jolts that jarred the ha-ha right off its face.

First thing those anti-Socialist women did was to demand of the state board of health the names of all manufacturers of and dealers in impure or adulterated food stuffs. They are going to advertise such names and publicly urge people not to buy "the stuff."

Next thing, the women organized to help select LaFollette delegates to the Republican national convention.

The women like politics and are in deadly earnest. Extended comment at this time seems to be about as unnecessary as announcing that 2 plus 2 almost always makes 4.

If those peace meetings become numerous, we will surely have to increase the standing army to prevent ourselves from cutting each others' throats.